or they do not have stock and if they have stock, they will not ask for import. Would you consider this factor?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, the Central issue price of wheat is, of course, a factor because the open sale price cannot be less than the Central issue price. We do not want it to be less than the Central issue price. In that way, it is a floor price. This determines that the open sale price would not be less than the Central issue price. The actual issue price of each State is also different. That factor also comes in. For example, in Maharashtra, there is one rupee per quintal of additional charge over the Central issue price, Haryana charges only fifteen paise over the Central issue price. So, many factors are considered. But since the hon. Member is saying that freight should be given more weightage, we will certainly consider that aspect.

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: अध्यक्ष जी, माननीय मंत्री ने जो जवाब दिया है, उसमें गुजरात में 435, राजस्थान में 415 और मध्य प्रदेश में 410 बताया है और उन्होंने जो अभी जवाब दिया है उसमें यह बताया है कि कोई ओल्ड स्टॉक आफ इम्पोर्टिड व्हीट गुजरात में और महाराष्ट्र में पड़े हैं, इसी वजह से कुछ फेर-फार है भाव में तो मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूं कि गुजरात में और महाराष्ट्र में जो इम्पोर्टिड व्हीट का ओल्ड स्टाक है उसमें से कितना गुजरात में है और कितना महाराष्ट्र में है और वह कितना ओल्ड है?

श्री अजीत सिंह: यह इन्फॉरमेशन तो अभी मेरे पास नहीं है एग्जेक्टली।

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: आपने अभी अपने जवाब में बताया है, आपने जो कुछ भाव का केल्कुलेशन किया है 435, 415 और 410, वह इस बात से किया है कि गुजरात में और महाराष्ट्र में इम्पोर्टिड ओल्ड स्टाक व्हीट का पड़ा है। तो मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूं, मेरा बहुत सीधा सवाल है, कि गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र में तिकना इम्पोर्टिड व्हीट पड़ा है?

श्री अजीत सिंह: सभापति जी, यह एग्जेक्ट इन्फारमेशन मैं मैम्बर को दे दूंगा कि कितना ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: आपने केल्कुलेशन किया है, आपने जो जवाब दिया है, मैं तो आपके जवाब से ही पूछ रहा हूं, मैं कोई बाहर का सवाल नहीं पूछ रहा हूं।

श्री अजीत सिंह: एक हाई पावर कमेटी एफ०सी०आई० में है जिसमें फाइनैंस मिनिस्ट्री के रिप्रजेंटेटिव्स हैं, एफ०सी०आई० के है, फूड मिनिस्ट्री के है, वे हर महीने, जैसी जरुरत होती है, प्राइस तय करते हैं और उसमें ये सब फैक्टर कंसिडर करते है। तो मेरा जवाब यह था कि वह भी प्राइस तय करने में एक फैक्टर है। माननीय सदस्य का जवाब है कि एग्जेक्टली कितना है। ऐक्जेक्ट तो मैं नहीं कह सकता लेकिन गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र में करीब 1,20,000 टन इम्पोर्टेड व्हीट अभी है।

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: कितना पुराना है?

श्री अजीत सिंह: इम्पोर्टेड व्हीट है।

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: कितने दिनों से यह इम्पोर्ट किया हुआ पड़ा है?

श्री अजीत सिंह: वही तो कह रहा हूं, 1,20,000 टन है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increase/Decrease in Prices of Essential Commodities

*101. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what has been increase/decrease in the prices of essential commodities in the country during the period from 1st April, 1995 to 30th June, 1995; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to control rise in prices of essential commodities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Percentage variation in the wholesale price indices of selected essential commodities during 1.4.95 and 30.6.95 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Government accords utmost priority to control the prices of all commodities in general and essential commodities in particular. By and large, the availability position of rice, wheat, atta, sugar and edible oils is fairly comfortable. Apart from taking certain long-term measures to increase the production of various commodities other measures taken by the Government to contain the rise in the prices include, open market sale operations of rice and wheat at below market prices by Food Corporation of India and supply of grains at subsidised prices to remote and inaccessible areas through the Revamped Public Distribution System. The import of edible oils excluding coconut oil, palm kernel oil, RBD Palmolein, RBD Palmstearin has been allowed under OGL at reduced customs duty of 30%. Besides, the STC and National Dairy Development Board have been authorised to import palmolein at a concessional customs duly of 20%. In the case of pulses, the import of pulses has been placed under OGL. The customs duty on import of pulses has been reduced from 10% to 5%. The Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977 has been amended to exclude imported pulses from the purview of storage limits prescribed under the said order.

Statement

Percentage Variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities during 1.4.95 and 30.6.95.

Commodity	Percentage Variation
Rice	+3.6
Wheat	−5.8
Pulses (Sub-group)	+5.4
Vegetable (Sub-group)	+33.4
Atta	−6.5
Sugar	+1.3
Edible Oils (Sub-group)	+0.1
(a) Vanaspati	+0.1
(b) Mustard Oil	−12.2
(c) Groundnut Oil	+2.1
(d) Coconut Oil	−0.6
Cotton Cloth (mills)	+1.0

Working Group for Beedi and Cigar Workers in Tamil Nadu

*103. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the difficulties in the way for Government to form a working group to study the long term impact of legislation on Beedi and Cigar Workers of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is a fact that various Ministries have authority to form a working group to study and review various policies and subjects; and

(c) if so, reasons for delay in forming a working group on this subject by the Ministry of Labour?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) There are mainly three Central Legislations relating to Beedi Workers.

The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 seeks to provide certain welfare measures and to regulate the conditions of work for the workers in beedi and cigar establishments. The State Governments are the implementing authorities under the Act. In Tamil Nadu, the Act, except for Section 3, has come into force w.e.f. 1.7.1968 while Section 3 came into force w.e.f. 1.9.1968.

The Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 provides for levy and collection of cess on menufactured beedies and crediting the same to the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund.

The Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 seeks to provide for the financing of measures to promote the welfare of persons engaged in beedi establishments. The Act provides for the constitution of